

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: REPORT OF TENTH CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES

REF: (A) CARACAS A-395; (B) DA 301908Z

THE FOLLOWING CONFERENCE REPORT WAS PREPARED BY THE U.S.
ARMY DELEGATION:

BEGIN SUMMARY. AFTER A HIATUS OF FOUR YEARS, THE TENTH
CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES (XCAA) WAS HELD FROM 3-7 SEPT-
EMBER 1973 WITH GENERAL CREIGHTON ABRAMS, CHIEF OF STAFF,
U.S. ARMY, AS CHIEF U.S. DELEGATE. CONFERENCE WAS WELL-
HOSTED BY VENEZUELAN WHO ADROITLY CONDUCTED PROCEEDINGS IN
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AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSION, CORDIALITY, AND
MUTUAL RESPECT. THE JOINT PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE EFFORT TO
INTERJECT DISCUSSIONS ON POLITICAL-ECONOMIC ISSUES AS WELL
AS THEIR PROPOSALS FOR REFORMING THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE

SYSTEM WERE REJECTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE. PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE STRATEGY (WITH STRONG ECUADORAN-PANAMIAN SUPPORT) WAS TO CHANGE CAA'S PURPOSE FROM REVIEWING MILITARY ASPECTS OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF THE HEMISPHERE, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE COMMUNIST THREAT, TO INCORPORATING CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE "AGGRESSION." THE PERUVIANS AND ARGENTINES APPARENTLY HOPED TO LEAD A DISCUSSION QUESTIONING THE VIABILITY OF THE RIO TREATY AS WELL AS THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD AND COLLEGE IN ADVANCE OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND PERU. CHILE AND MEXICO, WHICH MIGHT HAVE SUPPORTED PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE PROPOSAL WERE NOT FORMALLY REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE LACK OF POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT ON SOME AGENDA ITEMS, THE LONG OVERDUE MEETING OF AMERICAN ARMIES MILITARY LEADERS WAS BENEFICIAL IN REINFORCING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND. THE V11 INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES (ICAA) PRECEDED THE XCAA. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY BRIG. GEN. OLIVER B. PATTON, ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE, U.S. ARMY. AT THE ICAA THE PERUVIAN AND ARGENTINE DELEGATES SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT FROM THE MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES (11 OUT OF 16) TO DISCUSS A BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH FORMED THE SUBSTANCE OF A COMBINED ESTIMATE OF SUBVERSION IN THE AMERICAS THAT WAS LATER PRESENTED AT THE XCAA. THE COMBINED ESTIMATE UTILIZED WORKING DEFINITIONS FOR "SUBVERSION" WHICH WAS DEFINED AS LARGELY AN INTERNAL THREAT RESULTING FROM LOCALLY LED ELEMENTS. "AGGRESSION" (AS PROPOSED BY PERU-ARGENTINA) WAS DEFINED AS ANY ACT, SPONSORED BY A FOREIGN STATE OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WHICH INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY WEAKENS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMERICAN STATE OR AFFECTS ITS SECURITY. THE U.S. ARMY DELEGATION OPPOSED ATTEMPTS TO DEFINE "AGGRESSION" IN THESE TERMS CITING PREVIOUS UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN OTHER MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND POINTING OUT THAT ADOPTION OF THIS DEFINITION WOULD INVOLVE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DELEGATES IN MATTERS WHICH WERE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF A MILITARY CONFERENCE. IN SIGNING THE FINAL V11 ICAA AGREEMENT, THE U.S. ARMY DELEGATE MADE A WRITTEN RESERVATION QUESTIONING THE PROPRIETY OF DISCUSSION ON "ECONOMIC AGGRESSION." IN THE COMBINED ESTIMATE, WHICH REPRESENTED A MAJORITY OPINION, THERE WAS DISCUSSION NOT ONLY OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION BUT OTHER FORMS OF THREATS, PENETRATIONS, AND PRESSURE OF AN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND IDEOLOGICAL NATURE WHICH IN THE LATIN AMERICAN VIEW AFFECT COLLECTIVE SECURITY.

2. CONDUCT OF X CAA. ARMY CHIEFS AT MAIN CONFERENCE DID NOT FOLLOW LEAD OF THEIR INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS AND REJECTED

PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE PURPOSE OF CAA BY VOTE OF 10-6. U.S. VOTED WITH BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY. THE PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE POSITION WON SUPPORT FROM COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PANAMA, AND VENEZUELA. COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN SUPPORT OF THE PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE INITIATIVE WAS PRIMARILY ON GROUNDS THAT COMMUNISM SHOULD NOT BE SINGLED OUT AS PRINCIPAL THREAT. U.S. ARMY DELEGATE,

FOLLOWING U.S. POLICY RECOGNIZING CONCEPT OF PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGIES, WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS MODIFICATION. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED CHANGES TABLED ON THE CAA'S PURPOSE WENT FAR BEYOND THIS TYPE MODIFICATION.

3. REJECTION OF THE PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE INITIATIVE WAS RECEIVED AS A SETBACK BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY BY ARGENTINES WHO VIEWED REJECTION AS A "PROFOUND CONTRADICTION" TO EARLIER MAJORITY ACCEPTANCE OF V11 ICAA COMBINED ESTIMATE. COUNTRIES THAT REVERSED POSITION BY OPPOSING PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE INITIATIVE FOR CHANGE IN CAA PURPOSE WERE BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HONDURAS, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY. U.S. DELEGATION INTERPRETED EARLIER POSITION TAKEN BY SOME DELEGATIONS AS PART OF EFFORTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE POSITIONS PRIOR TO THE MAIN CONFERENCE AND TO AVOID BLOCKING DISCUSSION OF THE PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE PRESENTATION.

4. INDICATIONS ARE THAT ARGENTINA MAY NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE.
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PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE CONFERENCES UNLESS THE CAA PURPOSES ARE CHANGED; PERUVIANS MAY LIKEWISE CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE. (NOTE: OAS DELIBERATION AND DECISIONS DUE OUT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE BY 30 NOV 73 WILL PROBABLY AFFECT THESE ATTITUDES.)

5. OTHER CAA DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDED:

-- REJECTION OF A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT BUT AT THE SAME TIME CALLING FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE PRESENT STRUCTURE.

-- ADOPTION OF A PROPOSAL TO REVIEW CAA REGULATIONS, TO INCLUDE PURPOSE, IN ADVANCE OF NEXT CONFERENCE.

6. LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATES REFRAINED FROM CONFRONTING U.S. DELEGATION WITH BILATERAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ISSUES THAT SEVERAL POSTS HAD ANTICIPATED IN PRECONFERENCE PLANNING.

7. COMMENT. IN RETROSPECT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MAJOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION EXPRESSED DURING THE CONFERENCE,

DISCUSSIONS WERE ALWAYS CARRIED ON IN A PROFESSIONAL AND
COURTEOUS MANNER. IMPORTANT U.S. OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED
IN THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD AND WAS HOSTED BY A LATIN
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. PREVIOUS U.S. DOMINANCE WAS THUS
AVOIDED. RUSH

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